

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00
INRE-00 HA-05 MCT-01 TRSE-00 /056 W
-----106454 201733Z /70

O R 201630Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2248
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
COMSIXTHFLT
DIA
AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL PALERMO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
SHAPEUSNR
USCINCEUR, VAHINGEN, GERMANY
USDOCOSOUTH
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AFOSI DIST 65 ROME IT/IVOA
HG AFOSI WASHDC/IVOAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IT
SUBJECT: RED BRIGADES ANNOUNCE MORO'S EXECUTION IN FORTY-EIGHT HOURS
IF ALL "COMMUNIST" PRISONERS NOT FREED; EARLIER DEATH
MESSAGE DISCLAIMED

1. TELEPHONE CALLS TO NEWSPAPERS IN MILAN, GENOA AND TURIN
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LED TO THE MID-DAY DISCOVERY APRIL 20 OF A NEW AND LENGTHY
MESSAGE FROM THE RED BRIGADES. SHORTLY THEREAFTER, THE
PRESS REPORTS THAT A PHOTOGRAPH OF MORO HOLDING AN APRIL 19
EDITION OF LA REPUBBLICA WAS DISCOVERED IN ROME FOLLOWING
ANOTHER TELEPHONE ALERT. NUMBERED COMMUNIQUE SEVEN, THE
LATEST MESSAGE PRESENTS THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT PARTY (DC)
AND THE GOVERNMENT WITH AN ULTIMATUM TO RELEASE "THE

HUNDREDS OF COMMUNIST PRISONERS OF THE IMPERIALIST STATE"
WITHIN FORTY-EIGHT HOURS AFTER 1500 ITALIAN TIME
APRIL 20. IF THE DC DOES NOT REPLY "CLEARLY AND DEFIN-
ITIVELY" WITHIN THAT TIME, THE TERRORISTS STATE THEY WILL
ASSUME THE RESPONSIBILITY OF CARRYING OUT THE DEATH SENTENCE
GIVEN TO MORO BY "THE PEOPLE'S TRIBUNAL." THE MESSAGE
ALSO BRANDS AS "FALSE AND PROVOCATORY" THE COMMUNIQUE
DISCOVERED IN ROME ON APRIL 18 WHICH CLAIMED THAT MORO HAD
BEEN EXECUTED AND HIS BODY THROWN IN A MOUNTAIN LAKE EAST
OF ROME. THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE NEW RED BRIGADE MESSAGE
DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE IN DOUBT.

2. THE LANGUAGE OF COMMUNIQUE NUMBER SEVEN IS BRUTAL AND
REplete WITH REVOLUTIONARY JARGON VILLIFYING THE DC, THE
GOVERNMENT AND THE "IMPERIALIST" STATE. IT ACCUSES THE
DC AND ITS ASSOCIATES OF THE POLITICAL AND PHYSICAL
GENOCIDE OF THE "COMMUNIST VANGUARD." IT CHARGES THAT DC
POLITICAL LEADERS (AND ANDREOTTI IN PARTICULAR) HAVE BEEN
UNWILLING TO NEGOTIATE MORO'S RELEASE BECAUSE THEY STAND
TO BENEFIT ("CALCULATED, PERSONAL POLITICAL INTERESTS")
BY MORO'S ELIMINATION.

3. THE RED BRIGADES MAKE CLEAR THAT THEY REJECT THE DC'S
RECENT "HUMANITARIAN APPEAL" FOR MORO'S SAFETY. THE DC'S
RESPONSE, THEY STATE, MUST BE POLITICAL, NOT HUMANITARIAN.
IN SO DOING, THE BRIGADES IMPLICITLY REJECT THE RECENT
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OFFERS OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL (AT THE REQUEST OF
MORO'S FAMILY) AND CARITAS (SPONTANEOUSLY) TO MEDIATE
MORO'S RELEASE. COMMENT: DC LEADERS, PARTICULARLY THOSE
CLOSE TO MORO SUCH AS PARTY SECRETARY ZACKGNINI, HAVE
AGAIN BEEN PUT ON THE SPOT BY THE RED BRIGADES INSISTENCE
ON POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PARTY AND GOVERNMENT.
THIS IS SOMETHING THAT THE DC AND THE GOVERNMENT (SUPPORTED
BY THE OTHER PARTIES AND PARTICULARLY THE COMMUNISTS) HAVE
REFUSED TO DO FOR OVER A MONTH. END COMMENT.

4. THROUGHOUT THEIR COMMUNIQUE, THE BRIGADES TALK ABOUT
THE FREEING OF "COMMUNIST PRISONERS." IT IS CLEAR FROM THE
CONTEXT AS WELL AS THE CONTENT OF OTHER MESSAGES THAT BY
"COMMUNIST," RED BRIGADE AS WELL AS OTHER EXTREME-LEFT
PRISONERS AND SUSPECTS ARE INTENDED. WHILE THERE IS NO
SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO THE FREEING OF THE CURCIO GROUP NOW
UNDERGOING TRIAL IN TURIN, THEY WOULD UNDOUBTELY BE PART
OF THE "HUNDREDS OF COMMUNIST PRISONERS" THE BRIGADES
SEEK TO FREE.

5. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHY THE BRIGADES WAITED THREE DAYS
BEFORE DISOWNING THE APRIL 18 MESSAGE WHICH HAS HAD

INVESTIGATORS SEEKING MORO'S BODY IN AN ISOLATED AND SNOW-
COVERED MOUNTAIN VALLEY. WHETHER THE TERRORISTS WERE
RESPONSIBLE FOR THE "FALSE" MESSAGE OR NOT, THE EFFECT OF
THE FRUSTRATING SEARCH WAS TO CREATE AN EMOTIONALLY
DRAINED ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH THE LATEST GRISLY MESSAGE
WILL HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED.GARDNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXECUTIONS, COMMUNISTS, PRISONERS, DEATHS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Format: TEL
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780435/aaaabczy.tel
Line Count: 122
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Litigation History:
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Message ID: 085e79aa-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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EARLIER DEATH MESSAGE DISCLAIMED
TAGS: PINT, IT, RED BRIGADE, (MORO, ALDO)
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